

## CLAIMS

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1. A booting system comprising:  
a processor;  
5 a first boot device coupled to said processor; and  
a second boot device coupled to said processor.
  2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
a switching mechanism configured to cause said processor to become  
10 disassociated with said first boot device and associate with said second boot device when  
it is determined that said first boot device is inoperable.
  3. The system of claim 2 further comprising:  
a mirroring mechanism wherein a first data on said first boot device is copied to  
15 said second boot device.
  4. The system of claim 3, wherein said switching mechanism is further  
configured to allow removal of said first or second boot device.
  - 20 5. The system of claim 3, wherein said mirroring mechanism copies said first  
data to said second boot device whenever said first data is modified.
  6. The system of claim 3, wherein said first data is an operating system.
  - 25 7. The system of claim 6, wherein said operating system is UNIX.

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8. The system of claim 6, wherein said operating system is Windows.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein said operating system is Mac OS.

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10. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a first port controller coupling said processor to said first and second boot devices;

and

a second port controller coupling said processor to said first and second boot

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device.

11. The system of claim 10 further comprising:

a routing mechanism wherein a communication between said processor and said first or second boot device is transmitted through said first port controller and said second port controller.

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12. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a first power source; and

a second power source.

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13. The system of claim 12, wherein said first power source or said second power source can power said system.

14. A method of booting a computer system comprising:

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providing a processor;

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providing a first boot device coupled to said processor;  
providing a second boot device coupled to said processor; and  
determining whether to associate said processor with said first or second boot  
device.

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15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
removing said first boot device or said second boot device from said system;  
initiating an operating system upgrade; and  
restoring said operating system from said removed boot device if necessary.

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16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
mirroring said first data on said first and second boot devices.

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17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
replacing said first or second boot devices with a new boot device when said first  
or second boot device fails.

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18. The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
providing a first port controller coupling said processor to said first and second  
boot devices;  
providing a second port controller coupling said processor to said first and second  
boot devices; and  
routing data accesses from said processor to said first or second boot devices  
through said first or second port controllers.

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19. The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
powering said computer system using either a first power source or a second  
power source.

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